

I would like to congratulate the city of Chicago on its many accomplishments over the years and hope that they will be awarded the great honor of hosting the 2016 Olympics.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding the three earmarks I secured as part of H.R. 3293, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

My first request, totaling \$250,000, will come from the Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education (FIPSE) within the Higher Education account at the Department of Education for Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois to modernize classrooms, library resources, and science laboratories with technology to significantly enhance student learning. The 2000 Census shows the Rockford area lagging significantly behind the rest of the State of Illinois in the numbers of residents with a four year higher education degree. The City of Rockford also has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, reaching 15.2 percent in June—a level not seen since 1983. Rockford College is one of the oldest and most prestigious private liberal arts colleges in the United States. The College is working to be more competitive in the marketplace by improving teaching and learning while also equipping students with the skills needed for tomorrow's workplace. Continued federal funding is needed to prevent the loss of this treasure by helping to upgrade antiquated classrooms and labs at Rockford College and convert them to modern smart classrooms as part of their long-term modernization program. The College will continue to seek matches from other sources including state and local governments as well as private donors. The funds would be used to add fiber infrastructure; modernize library resources with technology and collaborative teaching environments; equip science laboratories and a computer classroom to significantly enhance student learning; and a classroom-use optimization tool in the registrar's office to automate the management of limited classroom resources. Rockford College has received funding in the past for similar initiatives (\$195,000 in Fiscal Year '08 and \$238,000 in Fiscal Year '09). The entity to receive funding for the classroom, library, and laboratory upgrades is Rockford College located at 5050 East State Street in Rockford, Illinois 61108.

My second request, totaling \$100,000, will come from the Higher Education account at the Department of Education for the Special Education District of McHenry County, Illinois to help fund the Pathways Program to meet the needs of students with intellectual disabilities. The Pathways Program in McHenry County helps students with intellectual disabilities including individuals on the autism spectrum to achieve career and technical education training at McHenry County College. This federal funding will assist all McHenry

County schools as well as help McHenry County College meet the needs of an underserved student population. The program will address crucial education goals to close the gap for preparing young adults with intellectual disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum, with the necessary vocational skills for living independently. This investment will save federal, state and local government tax dollars by enabling this population to live independently and develop the work skills necessary to support themselves. The entity to receive funding is the Special Education District of McHenry County, located at 1200 Claussen Drive, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

My final request, totaling \$250,000, will come from the Construction and Modernization of Health Facilities and Services account under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help complete building the National Center for Rural Health Professions at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine in Rockford, Illinois. To achieve the goals of training more physicians for rural service, a state-wide program was created in 1993 by the College of Medicine in Rockford involving approximately 30 rural hospitals and communities. The Rural Medical Education Program (RMED) has since been nationally recognized as one of the most innovative rural health medicine programs. The National Center for Rural Health Professions at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine in Rockford, will build on this success by serving as a national rural health education resource for medical colleges and rural communities across the nation. The Center will conduct research, develop curricula, implement and evaluate rural medical and health care education models, provide consultation to other medical colleges, and study trends in rural health related to health professional training needs. Medical colleges throughout the U.S. can use the research findings and curriculum models to implement training for rural health professionals to practice in medically underserved rural areas in their respective states. The College of Medicine has raised \$4 million in private funds toward this \$32 million expansion project. Another \$14 million has been committed by the University of Illinois, and the university will also receive state funding to help complete the project. This project has received federal funding in the past (\$238,000 in Fiscal Year '09) because of the potential national reach of this program. The entity to receive funding is the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford Campus, located at 1601 Parkview Avenue in Rockford, Illinois 61107.

Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative DAVID OBEY, and the Ranking Minority Member, Representative JERRY LEWIS, and the Ranking Minority Member of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative TODD TIAHRT, for working with me in a bipartisan manner to include these three critical requests in this spending bill.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ANIELLO L. TORTORA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great appreciation for his service to the people of my congressional district that I bid farewell to Colonel Aniello L. Tortora, commander of the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I have known Colonel Tortora since he assumed command of the New York District in August, 2006, and have been proud to work with him on Long Island to improve navigation, protect our shores and energize the local economy.

Covering not only Long Island, the New York District is responsible for the Corps' water resource development, navigation, and regulatory activities in northeastern New Jersey, eastern and south-central New York State, and parts of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The District is also responsible for design and construction at Army and Air Force installations in New Jersey, New York, and overseas in Greenland. Colonel Tortora also holds the title of Supervisor of New York Harbor.

Colonel Tortora, a native of southern Florida, was commissioned an engineer officer from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1985. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy, a Master of Science in Engineering from the University of Texas, and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University.

Throughout his career, Colonel Tortora has served in a variety of operational, command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. He has commanded at every level from platoon to battalion. His most recent assignment was Senior Joint Engineer, Defense Continuity and Crisis Management, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense) in Washington, DC.

Colonel Tortora's previous assignments include: platoon leader and company executive officer, 43rd Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy), Fort Benning, Georgia, and Honduras; B Company commander, 16th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 1st Armored Division in Nuremberg, Germany, and for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; project engineer, Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; battalion S-3, 588th Engineer Battalion (Combat) and brigade S-3, Engineer Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; and staff officer, Futures Directorate, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia. He also commanded the 2nd Engineer Battalion (Combat), 2nd Infantry Division, at Camp Castle, Korea.

Colonel Tortora is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College. He is a member of the Association of the United States Army, the Society of American Military Engineers, the Army Engineer Association, and the National Engineering Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three awards of the